

PATENT APPLICATION

Recording and Playback Apparatus for Stream Data and Transmission Method for Stream Data

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RECORDING AND PLAYBACK APPARATUS FOR STREAM DATA
AND TRANSMISSION METHOD FOR STREAM DATA

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a stream data recording and playback apparatus for recording and playback of stream data such as digital video/audio signals and a method for transfer of data in the stream data recording and playback apparatus.

With the development of digital video signal processing techniques and recording and playback techniques, settop boxes (STB's) for reception of satellite broadcast or CATV, digital broadcast receiver sets such as digital TV's, digital VTR (Video Tape Decoder, or VCR (Video Cassette Recorder))'s, disk recorders and the like have been realized as household apparatuses. When a video/audio signal is transmitted and received between the digital AV apparatuses, it is desirable for the purpose of preventing degradation in signal quality that the signal be transmitted as stream data while keeping the digital signal format. Available as a digital interface optimized for transmission of such stream data is a fast serial bus defined by IEEE 1394-1995 standards, which bus will hereinafter be referred to as a 1394 bus. The 1394 bus meets conditions for connection of the AV apparatus by permitting maximal 63 devices to be connected freely in tree connection and by being provided with an

isochronous transfer scheme that has a maximum transfer rate of 400Mbps and is suitable for transmission of data necessary to be transmitted on real time such as a video/audio stream.

5 In the recording and playback apparatus such as a digital VTR (or VCR), on the other hand, recording/playback of signals is carried out digitally, so that a change in signal quality attributable to repetitive recording/playback operations does not occur
10 essentially and copies identical to an original can be created easily many times. This will give rise to a possibility that many copies duplicate to an original can be reprinted, amounting up to a great number of copies in excess of the range of domestic use, even in
15 the case of video/audio data (contents) conserved for copyright.

As a technique for prevention of the unauthorized copy of contents, a DTCP (Digital Transmission Contents Protection) scheme has been
20 adopted in the 1394 bus. In the DTCP scheme, data for authentication is assigned to AV apparatuses, one by one, for handling a video/audio stream with copyright reserved, that is, a broadcast receiver set, a recording and playback apparatus and a display
25 apparatus, a stream applied with a scramble process is sent from an apparatus on the stream transmitting side (hereinafter referred to as a source device) in order that transmission of data is permitted between only

apparatuses that succeed in mutual authentication and an apparatus on the stream receiving side (hereinafter referred to as a sink device) that has acquired key data for release of the scramble in advance on the basis of the authentication receives and decodes the stream to play back or record the stream.

The video/audio stream is assigned with copy control information describing conditions for copying of data and data copying is sorted into any of three modes of "copy free", "copy never" and "copy one generation". The recordable apparatus such as the digital VTR is permitted to receive and record only a stream subject to "copy free" or "copy one generation" and after having recorded a stream subject to "copy one generation", it changes the copy control information to "no more copies". The apparatus for playback and display of video/audio signals such as the digital TV can receive and plays back streams regardless of the copy control information.

One may refer to, for example, JP-A-11-205310 as describing the aforementioned technique.

In the DTCP scheme, once contents subject to "copy one generation" is recorded on the recording and playback apparatus, copy control information for the contents is thereafter changed to "no more copies", thus inhibiting other recording apparatus from recording the contents any more. On the other hand, a stream recording/playback apparatus for recording

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According to the invention, to accomplish the above object, when contents temporarily stored in a

stream recording and playback apparatus is played back with the aim of transcribing the contents to a different recording apparatus, authentication of apparatus is made mutually between the stream recording
5 and playback apparatus and the different recording apparatus to interchange key data for contents scramble so as to enable the apparatuses to possess the key data in common. Then, stream data scrambled using the key data is transmitted to the recording apparatus by
10 designating one transmission channel and at the time that the contents transmission ends, the contents is deleted to thereby implement transcription of the contents. During the execution of transcription, a request for authentication made by a different
15 receiving apparatus to that channel is rejected to ensure that the contents cannot be received at a time by a plurality of apparatuses.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing detailed
20 construction of an AV system including a stream data recording and playback apparatus according to an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing detailed construction of interface means of the stream recording
25 and playback apparatus according to an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 3 is a diagram showing a method for

transmission of data between a digital satellite
broadcast receiving apparatus and a digital TV.

Fig. 4 is a diagram showing a method for transmission of data between the stream recording and playback apparatus and the digital satellite broadcast receiving apparatus and digital TV according to an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 5 is a diagram showing a method for transmission of data between the stream recording and playback apparatus and the digital satellite broadcast receiving apparatus and digital TV according to an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 6 is a diagram showing a method for transmission of data between a digital VTR and the digital satellite broadcast receiving apparatus and digital TV.

Fig. 7 is a diagram showing a sequence of procedures of data transmission between the stream data recording and playback apparatus and the digital satellite broadcast receiving apparatus according to an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 8 is a diagram showing a transmission packet format of stream data.

Fig. 9 is a diagram showing a sequence of
25 procedures of data transmission between the stream data
recording and playback apparatus and another recording
apparatus according to an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 10 is a diagram showing a method for

data transmission between the stream recording and playback apparatus and the digital satellite broadcast receiving apparatus and digital TV according to an embodiment of the invention.

5 DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

Embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings. Referring first to Fig. 1, there is illustrated an AV system constructed by using a hard
10 disc recorder representing an embodiment of a stream data recording and playback apparatus according to the invention. The AV system comprises a digital satellite broadcast receiver set 3, a digital TV 4, a hard disk recorder 1 and a digital video tape recorder 2. These
15 devices are coupled to each other through a 1394 bus.

In the digital satellite broadcast receiver set 3, a signal received by an antenna 31 is demodulated by means of a front end 32, desired program data is selected from a multiplexed transport stream at
20 a demultiplexer 33 and the selected data is delivered as a stream from an interface 35 onto the bus through a terminal 36. A CPU 34 executes programs stored in a built-in memory or a memory, not shown, so as to control individual components of the digital satellite
25 broadcast receiver set 3. Further, the CPU 34 conducts such processes as reading electronic program guide (EPG) information from the received transport stream to

create screen data for operation inclusive of screen data for presenting the read information to the user and transmit the screen data to the 1394 bus and transmitting/receiving control commands through the
5 1394 bus.

In the digital TV 4, the stream transmitted on the 1394 bus is received by an interface 42 through a terminal 44a or 44b, the received stream is decoded to video and audio data by means of a decoder 43 and
10 video data is displayed on a CRT 46 through a signal processing circuit 45. Audio data, on the other hand, passes through an audio signal processing circuit, not shown, so as to be reproduced from a loudspeaker, not shown. A CPU 41 executes programs stored in a built-in
15 memory or a not-shown memory to control individual components of the digital TV 4. Further, the CPU 41 receives screen data for controlling other apparatus connected through the medium of the 1394 bus to draw the data in a memory included in the signal processing
20 circuit 45 so as to display that data or transmits/receives commands for controlling other devices.

In the disk recorder 1, a stream transmitted on the 1394 bus is received by means of an interface 14 through a terminal 15a and the received stream is
25 converted into a data format for write to a disk 11 by means of a signal processing circuit 13 and recorded on the disc 11. Conversely, a signal read out of the disk 11 is converted into a stream format for transfer by

means of the signal processing circuit 13 and then transmitted as a stream from the interface 14 onto the 1394 bus through terminal 15a or 15b. A CPU 12 executes programs stored in a built-in memory or a not-
5 shown memory to control individual components of the disk recorder 1. Further, the CPU 12 conducts such processes as preparing screen data indicative of operation contents of the disk device 1 to transmit the data to the 1394 bus and transmitting/receiving control
10 commands through the 1394 bus.

In the digital VTR 2, a stream transmitted on the 1394 bus is received by an interface 22 through a terminal 26. The received stream is converted into a format of recording onto a tape medium by means of a
15 signal processing circuit 23 and recorded on a tape 25 from a head 24 mounted to a rotary drum not shown. Conversely, data read out of the tape 25 by means of the head 24 is converted into a stream format for transfer by means of the signal processing circuit 23
20 and is then transmitted from the interface 22 to the 1394 bus through the terminal 26. A CPU 21 conducts such processes as executing programs stored in a built-in memory or a not-shown memory to control individual components of the digital VTR 2, preparing screen data
25 indicative of operation contents of the digital VTR 2 to transmit it to the 1394 bus and transmitting/receiving commands for control through the 1394 bus.

Referring to Fig. 2, detailed construction of

the interfaces 14, 22, 35 and 42 is illustrated. The individual interfaces are implemented with the construction common to the individual sections. A physical layer processor (PHY) 54 connecting to the 1394 bus and a link layer processor (LINK) 53 respectively execute physical layer and link layer processes prescribed by the IEEE 1394 standards, the input/output of the link layer processor 53 is connected to an isochronous transfer FIFO 52 for storing data transferred on the 1394 bus in the isochronous transfer mode and to an asynchronous transfer FIFO 55 for storing data transferred on the 1394 bus in the asynchronous transfer mode, and the input/output of the isochronous transfer FIFO is applied, as necessary, with a scramble process or a de-scramble process by means of a data encrypting/decrypting means 51 and thereafter connected to, for example, the signal processor inside the device. The input/output of the asynchronous transfer FIFO 55 is connected to the CPU inside the device through a host interface 56. The CPU transmits/receives control commands transmitted/received to/from the 1394 bus in the asynchronous transfer mode and besides, controls the individual components of the interface through the host interface 56.

Next, operation of the AV system shown in Fig. 1 will be described. Firstly, in case programs broadcasted by digital satellite broadcasting are

5 selected program is sent as a stream onto the 1394 bus
and the stream is received by the digital TV 4 so as to
be played back and displayed. For the 1394 bus, two
modes of isochronous transfer and asynchronous transfer
are prescribed. When the stream of broadcasting
10 program is transferred on real time, the isochronous
transfer mode is typically used. For control of the
transmission format of stream data and of the stream
transmission/reception, a method prescribed by the IEC
61883 standards may be used.

25 An example of Fig. 3 shows that an output
plug 301 of the digital satellite broadcast receiver
set 3 is connected to an input plug 401 of the digital
TV 4 by using an isochronous data channel X on the 1394

bus and stream data is transmitted by using this channel X. Control of stream data transmission and reception is executed by carrying out write to plug control registers provided in bus address spaces of the

5 individual devices connected to the 1394 bus. For example, a connection is established by writing a transmission channel X, as a setting value, from the digital TV 4 to an output plug register of the digital satellite broadcast receiver set 3 and causing the

10 digital TV to set an input plug register of its own to reception of the channel X, thereby enabling the satellite broadcast receiver set 3 to transmit a stream to the digital TV 4 by using the channel X.

The connection can be established from the

15 digital TV 4 side, that is, from the sink side as described above but alternatively, the connection establishment can be accomplished from the satellite broadcast receiver set, that is, from the source side. In addition, the connection can also be established by

20 transmitting a command for connection establishment from the source side to the sink side. When the stream data transmission ends, the established connection is broken by writing data for releasing the connection using the channel X to the input plug register and

25 output plug register of each device. It is to be noted that in the IEC61883 standards, a point to point connection for connecting the input and output plugs and a broadcast connection for connecting input or

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output plug and the isochronous data channel are defined but the point to point connection is simply referred to as "connection" in the foregoing and will hereinafter be done so unless noticed in particular.

5 Next, operation when the disk recorder 1 records satellite broadcast programs will be described. In this case, as shown in Fig. 4, a connection is established between the output plug 301 of satellite broadcast receiver set 3 and an input plug 101 of disk
10 recorder 1 and a stream of a program is transmitted and recorded on the disk in the disk recorder 1. At that time, a so-called recording monitor can be carried out in which the stream of the same channel X is received by means of the digital TV 4 so that an image of the
15 stream being recorded on the disk recorder may be decoded and displayed.

 In the IEC61883, it is possible to add a connection to the connection established precedently so as to permit another apparatus to also use the stream
20 of the same channel. This subsequent addition of connection is called "overlay". As shown in Fig. 4, a connection is established between the output plug of digital satellite broadcast receiver set 3 and the input plug 401 of digital TV 4. In this case, it is
25 also possible to overlay the connection to the input plug 101 of disk recorder 1 on the connection initially established to transmit a stream from the digital satellite broadcast receiver set 3 to the digital TV 4

for watching and listening the stream. Alternatively,
it is possible to overlay the connection to the input
of digital TV 4 on the connection from the digital
satellite broadcast receiver set 3 to the disk recorder

- 5 1. As in the case of playback or watching and
listening, the connection establishment may be carried
out from the side of any one of the devices of
satellite broadcast receiver set 3, digital TV 4 and
disk recorder 1 or may be executed by a transmission
10 destination apparatus by sending a command thereto.

- Various forms of operation conducted by the
user when recording operation is performed can be
considered. In one way, a command inputted by
operating, for example, a remote controller while
15 watching a GUI screen displayed on the digital TV 4 may
be transmitted as a command from the TV to the digital
satellite broadcast receiver set 3 and disk recorder 1
through the 1394 bus or the user operation may be
realizable through a method in which a GUI screen
20 created by the digital satellite broadcast receiver set
3 or disk recorder 1 is sent to the digital TV 4 so as
to be displayed thereon and an operation is carried out
by operating a remote controller or a panel on the side
of digital satellite broadcast receiver set 3 or disk
25 recorder 4 to perform recording.

For a command for operating the digital
satellite broadcast receiver set 3 or disk recorder 1
from the digital TV 4 or for establishing a connection

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to the transmission destination apparatus, an AV/C command set defined as command specifications for controlling AV apparatus by the 1394 Trade Association may be used pursuant to command transfer protocol

5 defined in the IEC61883 standards. As a method for transmission of the GUI screen to another apparatus, there is available a method defined in the EIA775A standards, a method using a panel sub-unit indicated by the aforementioned AV/C command set specifications or a
10 method for implementing a GUI defined in HAVi (Home Audio Video interoperability) specifications that define network control specifications of the AV apparatus.

Next, an instance will be described in which
15 broadcast programs recorded on the disk recorder 1 are played back so as to be displayed on the digital TV 4. Fig. 5 shows a transmission status of a stream when the stream is transmitted from the disk recorder 1 and displayed on the digital TV 4. In this case, a
20 connection is established from an output plug 102 of disk recorder 1 to the input plug 401 of digital TV 4 to permit the stream to be transmitted and the stream received by the digital TV 4 is decoded and displayed. As in the case of playback and recording, various forms
25 of the apparatus that establishes the connection and the method of operation by the user can be considered.

In an instance where a stream is recorded or played back by means of the digital VTR 2, too, a

connection is established as shown in Fig. 6 between an input plug 201 or output plug 202 of digital VTR 2 and the output plug 301 of digital satellite broadcast receiver set 3 or the input plug 401 of digital TV 4, like the instance of disk recorder, to permit transmission of the stream.

The foregoing description has been given without considering a case where limitation on copy is applied to programs received through satellite broadcast. Thus, when a program received through, for example, satellite broadcast and recorded on the disk recorder is transmitted as a stream onto the bus and the stream is received by another disk recorder or digital VTR, the program can be copied. In each of the IEEE1394 standards and the IEC61883 standards, limitation is not particularly imposed on the apparatus allowed to transmit and receive the stream and therefore, a stream flowing on the bus can essentially be received and utilized by any other apparatus by overlaying the connection as described previously and one stream can be recorded simultaneously by means of a plurality of apparatuses to prepare many copies.

Under the circumstances, when among broadcast programs, contents of movies for instance, for which copyright is reserved to make it necessary to impose limitation on preparation of copies for the purpose of protecting the right of a copyright holder, is transmitted on the 1394 bus, the DTCP (Digital

Transmission Content Protection) scheme defining copyright protection specification on the 1394 bus is used with a view to preventing the contents as above from being copied unlimitedly.

- 5 According to the DTCP scheme, when contents with copyright reserved with its copying limited is to be transmitted as a stream on the 1394 bus, mutual authentication between partner apparatuses is carried out by using information for authentication precedently
- 10 built in the apparatuses, contents is scrambled only when the authentication is successful to enable the partner apparatuses to mutually possess key data for transmission in common, a stream representative of encrypted contents is transmitted from the source
- 15 apparatus side onto the 1394 bus and the stream received by the sink side is decrypted by using the key processed in common, thereby ensuring that transmission/reception of the contents can be permitted only between the apparatuses having the information for
- 20 authentication.

- Fig. 7 shows transmission procedures when contents applied with limitation on copy is transmitted from the digital satellite broadcast receiver set 3 to the disk recorder 1 in the AV system shown in Fig. 1.
- 25 In Fig. 7, when a stream is to be transmitted from the satellite broadcast receiver set 3 to the disk recorder 1, a connection is first established between the output plug of satellite broadcast receiver set 3 and the

input plug of disk recorder 1 as described previously
(procedure 1001), key data for encrypting the contents
is created by the satellite broadcast receiver set 3
representing the source side (procedure 1002) and the
5 stream applied with a scramble process by the key data
is started to be transmitted onto the bus (procedure
1003). When receiving the stream undergoing the
scramble process, the disk recorder 1 representing the
sink side makes a request for authentication to the
10 source side (procedure 1004), so that partner
authentication is mutually carried out between the
source and sink sides to interchange the key data
(procedure 1005). When the authentication is
successful, the sink side is allowed to calculate the
15 key data for contents encryption and calculates its
value (step 1006), thus being permitted to decrypt and
receive the stream transmitted from the source side
(procedure 1007).

To end the transmission of the stream, the
20 stream from the source side is stopped (procedure
1008), the connection between the source and sink is
broken (procedure 1009) and the key data on the
respective source and sink sides is broken (procedures
1010 and 1011). For limitation on copy of contents,
25 there are provided four levels of "copy free", "copy
never", "copy one generation" and no more copies" and
these levels are identified by using copy control
information. Fig. 8 shows a format of a data packet in

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the isochronous transfer mode used to transfer stream data on the 1394 bus. The packet consists of header information of 32 bits, a header CRC, a data field and a data CRC. The header information has a data length field of 16 bits indicating a length of the packet, a tag field used for identifying the packet data format, a channel field indicating an isochronous channel number used for transmission of the packet, a Tcode indicating the kind of transaction of the packet and a Sync field used for synchronization of data. Of these fields, the Sync field has upper two bits used to provide individual values representative of the aforementioned four levels, so that the copy control information of contents transmitted in the form of a stream can be identified.

Contents of or subject to "copy free" is freed from limitation on copy so as to be able to be freely transmitted and received by any apparatus and need not be scrambled when transmitted/received to/from the bus. Contents of or subject to other three levels "copy never", "copy one generation" and "no more copies" is applied with limitation on copy and needs to be scrambled when transmitted on the bus. Contents of "copy never" cannot be received by the recording apparatus such as the disk recorder or VTR and stored in a medium. Therefore, for example, only when recording operation is not carried out as in such a case where a stream is transmitted from the satellite

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broadcast receiver set to the digital TV and played
back or watched and listened, the transmitted stream
can be received. Contents of "copy one generation" is
allowed to be recorded with the recording apparatus but
5 in case the contents is once recorded and thereafter
reproduced from the recording apparatus so as to be
transmitted, the contents must be transmitted with its
copy control information changed to "no more copies".
For the contents of "no more copies", only indication
10 of created data is permitted as in the case of "copy
never". In the apparatus having the information for
authentication, the processing of contents conforming
to the aforementioned copy control information is
correctly practiced without fail, thereby preventing
15 contents subjected to limitation on copy from being
copied without authorization in the DTCP scheme.

Next, operation carried out when contents
recorded on the disk recorder according to the
embodiment of the invention is transcribed (or moved)
20 to the digital VTR will be described. It is meant by
"transcription" that contents is moved from an
apparatus on the source side to the sink side by
transmitting the contents from the apparatus on the
source side to an apparatus on the sink side, whereby
25 the apparatus on the sink side records the received
contents and at the same time, the apparatus on the
source side having transmitted the contents deletes the
contents or whereby after confirming that the apparatus

on the sink side has recorded the received contents,
the apparatus on the source side deletes the contents.

Fig. 9 shows procedures for transmission of a
stream when transcription is conducted. In this
5 example, contents subject to "no more copies" recorded
on the disk recorder 1 shown in Fig. 1 is transcribed
to the digital VTR 2. When transcription of the
contents to the digital VTR 2 is commanded to the disk
recorder 1 through an operation of the panel or remote
10 controller by the user or by reception of a command
from another apparatus, the disk recorder 1 established
a connection between the disk recorder 1 and the
digital VTR 2 (procedure 1101), creates key data for
scramble (procedure 1102) and starts transmission of a
15 stream added with copy control information of "copy one
generation" (procedure 1103). The stream at that time
is not always a stream per se inclusive of the contents
to be transcribed but may be a stream inclusive of, for
example, a dummy blank signal. Receiving the stream,
20 the digital VTR 2 makes a request for authentication to
the disc recorder 1 (procedure 1104) so as to carry out
mutual partner authentication between the source and
sink and when the authentication is successful between
them (procedure 1105), the sink side is permitted to
25 create the key data through calculation (procedure
1106) and the key data for scrambling the contents can
be possessed in common. Subsequently, the disk
recorder 1 transmits a command for placing the digital

15 Instead of causing the digital VTR 2 to start
recording by sending the command to the digital VTR 2,
the panel or remote controller of digital VTR 2 may be
operated to place the digital VTR 2 in recording
condition and thereafter the disk recorder 1 may be
20 operated to start the stream transmission. At that
time, by displaying a message of, for example, "Please
place VTR in recording condition." in user interface
information created by the disk recorder to make the
transmission start ready to be operated, an operation
25 method can be presented to the user comprehensibly.

During the contents transmission, the disk recorder 1 periodically transmits a command to the digital VTR 2 to examine its operation status

(procedure 1111) and checks that a response purporting that recording is in operation returns from the digital VTR 2 (procedure 1112). Then, if it is determined that the recording operation continues normally, the

5 contents the transmission of which has finished till then is deleted from the disk (procedure 1113). On the other hand, in the event that the recording operation of digital VTR 2 is stopped owing to an operation by the user or for other reasons and the stoppage is

10 detected by way of, for example, a response to the command or in the event that the connection between the disk recorder and digital VTR cannot persist for reasons such as draw-out or disconnection of the cable of 1394 bus, the transmission of the stream is stopped

15 and thereafter, the contents scheduled to be transcribed is held in the disk. By deleting the contents little by little during operation of transcription in this manner, the operation can be stopped immediately before the end of transcription

20 operation and the transcription operation can be recommenced from the beginning to prevent many sheets of copies from being prepared easily and to prevent data desired to be transcribed from collapsing when recording of the contents cannot proceed in the digital

25 VTR 2 for some reasons.

In case a request for authentication is made during the transcription operation by such a sink device other than the digital VTR 2 that has initially

carried out the authentication as the digital TV,
another digital VTR or another disk recorder (procedure
1114), the request is rejected (procedure 1115),
thereby preventing a plurality of copies from being
5 created in addition to the transcription.

When transmission of all contents to be
transcribed ends, the disk recorder stops transmitting
the stream (procedure 1116), deletes contents remaining
in the disk of disk recorder 1 (procedure 1117) and
10 breaks the connection (procedure 1118). Through this,
the key for contents scramble possessed in common by
the two parties is broken (procedures 1119 and 1120)
and the transcription operation ends.

In the manner described as above, the
15 contents of "no more copies" recorded on the disk
recorder 1 can be transcribed to the digital VTR 2
while preventing the problem that the contents is
recorded concurrently on other recording apparatus and
a plurality of copies are created. On the other hand,
20 the digital VTR 2 side need not consider that the
operation is transcription and may perform the same
operation as normal recording of contents of "copy one
generation". For contents of "copy free" not applied
with limitation on copy, the transcription operation as
25 above is not always necessary and contents remaining
after completion of normal copying may be deleted.
But, if the contents is deleted little by little
similarly to the transcription of the contents applied

with limitation on copy as described above, the operation by the user can be simplified.

In case a plurality of write-once contents are designated precedently as to be transcribed, it suffices that after transmission of one contents ends, a command for placing the VTR once in pause condition may be transmitted, the pause may be released when the next contents is ready to be transmitted and thereafter the transmission of the contents may be started. In this manner, occurrence of blanking between contents on the tape of digital VTR 2 can be prevented.

Fig. 10 shows an operation status when transcription is executed while monitoring a stream transmitted from the disk recorder 1 to the digital VTR 2 by means of the digital TV 4. Firstly, a connection is established between the output plug 102 of disk recorder 1 and the input plug 401 of digital TV 4 by using a channel X and through a panel operation or remote control operation of the disk recorder 1 or an operation of the digital TV 4 side from the control application, the contents of contents to be transcribed from the disk recorder 1 is confirmed and selected. Then, when the transcription to the digital VTR 2 is commanded to the disk recorder 1 through any one of the above methods, the disk recorder 1 establishes a new connection between an output plug 103 of disk recorder 1 and the input plug 201 of digital VTR 2 by using a channel Y other than the channel X used by the

connection which has already been established between the disk recorder 1 and the digital TV 4 and executes a transcription operation with respect to the digital VTR 2 similarly to the procedures shown in Fig. 9. For practicing the transcription, the connection established with respect to the digital TV may be broken or the transmission of the stream may be stopped while holding the connection to continue transmission of an empty packet. Alternatively, a 1394 interface capable of performing simultaneous transmission of two channels may be used to transmit a stream subject to "no more copies" to the digital TV 4 while transmitting the same contents subjected to "copy one generation" to the digital VTR 2, thereby practicing transcription.

15 In this case, the contents being transcribed can be monitored simultaneously on the digital TV 4.

A channel different from the connection that has already been established with respect to the digital TV, for instance, can be used in this manner, so that even when a recording apparatus other than the digital TV has already been overlay-connected to the same channel, contents to be transcribed to that recording apparatus can be prevented from being recorded. Further, by using the 1394 interface capable of delivering two channels simultaneously, contents being transcribed can be monitored with the digital TV.

In the foregoing examples, embodiments have been described in which the present invention is

applied to the unitary disk recorder apparatus. The stream data recording and playback apparatus of the invention is not limited to the foregoing examples but may be a composite apparatus integrally formed of, for example, the satellite broadcast receiver set and the disc recorder and even in that case, the digital VTR can be connected with the 1394 bus to implement the transcription of contents in quite a similar way. The foregoing embodiments have been described by way of example of the recording and playback of the stream data exemplified by a multiplexed video and audio data stream but regardless of the kind of stream data, the present invention can also be applied to a recording and playback apparatus for recording and playing back a stream of only image, a stream of only voice, a stream of data broadcast described by XML (eXtended Markup Language) or a stream resulting from multiplexing these streams.

According to the invention, contents once recorded by the stream data recording and playback apparatus and subjected to limitation on copy can be transcribed to another stream data recording and playback apparatus and at that time, there is no fear of preparation of an unauthorized copy.